

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases, comprising treating hydrocarbon-comprising gases with catalysts at temperatures of from 15 to 40°C and under atmospheric pressure,

wherein the catalysts, with the exception of activated carbon and zeolites, ~~which~~ comprise from 5 to 70% by weight of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, nickel or mixtures thereof, and from 30 to 95% by weight of oxides from groups IIB, IIIB, IVB, VIB, VIII, IIIA and IVA of the Periodic Table of the Elements, which are solids up to at least 250 °C ~~are used and the method is carried out at temperatures of from 15 to 40°C and under atmospheric pressure.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases according to claim 1, wherein the catalysts are copper-comprising catalysts ~~are used.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases according to claim 1, wherein the catalysts are molybdenum-comprising catalysts ~~are used.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases according to claim 1, wherein the catalysts are copper- and molybdenum-comprising catalysts ~~are used together.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the method according to any of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 for producing sulfur-free hydrocarbon-comprising gases for the preparation of hydrogen~~ A method of producing sulfur-free hydrocarbon-comprising gases for the preparation of hydrogen, comprising removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the method according to any of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 for producing sulfur-free hydrocarbon-comprising gases for the preparation of hydrogen for operation of a fuel cell~~ A method of producing sulfur-free hydrocarbon-comprising gases for the preparation of hydrogen for operation of a fuel cell, comprising removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 7 (Original): A catalyst for removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases, with the exception of activated carbon and zeolites, which comprises:

from 5 to 70% by weight of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, nickel or mixtures thereof; and

from 30 to 95% by weight of oxides ~~from~~ selected from the group consisting of groups IIB, IIIB, IVB, VIB, VIII, IIIA and IVA of the Periodic Table of the Elements, which are solids up to at least 250 °C.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).